

Bell Lease January 2008

Date of Spill: January 29, 2008

Location: Greka Oil and Gas, Bradley 3 Island Lease, Santa Maria, California

Amount of Spill: Total (oil and water): Approximately 200 barrels of oil and water

On or about January 29, 2008, a release occurred from the upper Bell Lease ponds (northern pond). The Spill was caused from a corroded pipe. Oil and water migrated from the corroded pipe through the soil and out the base of the impoundment. This oil and water mixture migrated east across Palmer road, through the eastern side of the Bell lease and discharged into an unnamed tributary of Sisquoc Creek. The oil migrated approximately 1.2 miles downstream into Sisquoc Creek. Sisquoc Creek is a tributary to the Santa Maria River which feeds into the Pacific Ocean. A Clean Water Act 311 (c) Order issued on January 31, 2008 by EPA to Greka. The cleanup of the creek is on-going. Greka has also been ordered to removed the sediment from the wastewater impoundment by EPA. On March 31, 2008, Greka was notified by EPA that EPA was assuming control of the cleanup. This was due to Greka's failure to remove the oil from the creek in a timely and efficient manner and failure to provide the documentation required under the Order. EPA began cleanup operations on April 1, 2008. The cleanup of the creek is expected to be completed on April 10, 2008. The cleanup of the ponds is expected to start on April 11, 2008 and take approximately 10 days to complete. Upon completion of the cleanup, EPA in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game will be restoring and repairing the creek and banks. Web Site: www.epaosc.org/Greka_Bell_3



Above: EPA START contractor and U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team collecting samples from Upper Bell Ponds to assess constituents.

Picture: U.S. EPA

Below: The Upper Bell Wastewater pond from which the spill originated.

Picture: U.S. EPA



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Emergency Response Section, Region 9

